

## A GREAT SHOUT



David Wilkerson January 2, 2015

At times we must be still and know that He is God. Sometimes the Spirit brings forth sweet, melodic love songs to Jesus. But throughout God's Word, whenever He brought victory over enemies, the people always lifted up a great shout, a loud noise of praise to the Lord. On the seventh day that Israel marched around Jericho, this commandment circulated: "All the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat" (Joshua 6:5). "And the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat" (Joshua 6:20).

In Ezra we discover that another great shout took place when the temple foundation was laid. "When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord . . . they sang together . . . in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord. . . . And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord . . . So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off" (Ezra 3:10-11,13). The Hebrew word used for "shout" here means "split the ears." The weeping of the Israelites was so joyful and the praises so loud that they "split the ears!" Some people say they can't stand noise and shouting in church. But hear this: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout" (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

God wants us to know His Word on this matter. The Psalms command us to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. "Noise" in Hebrew, suggests thunder, sparks, fire. "Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands" (Psalm 66:1). "Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob" (Psalm 81:1). "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise . . . with trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King. . . . Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together" (Psalm 98:4, 6, 8).

God's people know exceeding great joy whenever the presence of Jesus has been revealed. If we will not shout His praises, the trees will do it for us. At Time Square Church we sing this song: "Lift up your heads, don't be afraid! Sing till the power of the Lord comes down!" That power is His presence!

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